

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
Email: state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov

FROM: City of Watsonville
Community Development Dept.
250 Main Street
Watsonville, CA 95076

Clerk of the Board
Santa Cruz County
701 Ocean Street, Room 520
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

FILE NO.: NA

Project Title: Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Project Location - Specific: Citywide

Project Location - City: Watsonville

Project Location - County: Santa Cruz

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: Adoption of a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) by reference into the Public Safety Element of the 2005 Watsonville General Plan. The LHMP was developed in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) and follows FEMA's 2011 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan guidance. The LHMP incorporates a process where hazards are identified and profiled, the people and facilities at risk were analyzed, and strategies were developed to reduce or eliminate hazard risk. The implementation of these strategies, which include both short- and long-term actions, involve future planning, policy changes, programs, projects, and other activities.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Watsonville

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Jackie McCloud, Sr. Utilities Engineer, Public Works & Utilities Dept.

Exempt Status (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: General Rule; §15061(b)(3)
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

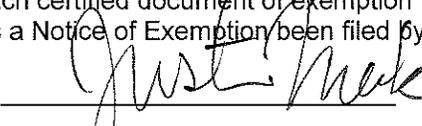
Reasons why project is exempt: The proposed text amendment to adopt by reference the LHMP into the Safety Element of the General Plan is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) (Common Sense Exemption). The activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. The LHMP acts as a guidebook for hazard mitigation strategies but does not implement any specific project, action, or funding.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Justin Meek

Telephone: 831.768.3077

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature:  **Date:** January 22, 2021

Title: Principle Planner, AICP

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant